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could divorce religious tenets from civilization and devote themselves to the improvement of the morals, and of the general condition of the sunken masses in the East, leaving the latter to work out their own scheme of salvation, the missions would be rendering the greatest possible service to humanity—a service in which they would have the aid and support of all serious-minded purposes, and one which could not fail of ultimate success.

MORRIS JASTROW, JR.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF HOLY SCRIPTURE, THE PRINCIPLES, METHODS, HISTORY, AND RESULTS OF ITS SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS AND OF THE WHOLE. By Charles Augustus Briggs, D.D., Edward Robinson Professor of Biblical Theology in Union Theological Seminary, New York City. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899. 8vo. Pp. xxii., 688. \$3.00.

To those who wish to be acquainted with the principles and methods of the modern literary and critical treatment of the Bible this book may be commended as a very useful guide. Without going into detail as to the origin of the several Biblical books (that is, without undertaking to be a history of old Hebrew literature), it gives the history of Biblical study, and indicates the lines along which fruitful study is to be conducted. Dr. Briggs accepts the supernatural point of view as to the origin of the Bible, but he holds at the same time that its essential divinity does not take it out of the domain of natural growth, and he feels at liberty to apply to it without limitation the principles of literary criticism. The doctrine of evolution is taken for granted throughout the book,—the history of Israel is treated as an evolution, and its unity is found in the gradual unfolding of the idea. While the author's main interest is theological, he has introduced here and there references to the ethics of the Bible. Here, also, it is evident, from his discussion, that the Biblical ethical conceptions show continuous progress. Dr. Briggs's reading is wide, and this volume is a storehouse of information (though it is much more than that), with numerous references to authorities. It is what its title declares it to be, an introduction to the study of the Bible. It is fresh and vigorous in style, and the critical and literary positions it takes are those of the most advanced line of Biblical science.

C. H. Toy.

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